

Melissa B. Jenkins, Silviculturist for the USDA Forest Service

Bio:

Melissa B. Jenkins has worked for with the USDA Forest Service since 1980, becoming a Certified Silviculturist in 1993. Her work with whitebark pine began in the early 1990's. Her accomplishments related to whitebark include: 1) First chair of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee Whitebark Pine Subcommittee and first U.S. co-chair for the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Hi5 Working Group, 2) implementing all types of whitebark pine restoration management activities; 3) team leader for the pilot whitebark pine restoration strategy in the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem. She received her B.S. degree in forestry from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1981.

Title:

A restoration strategy for whitebark pine in the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem

Story:

I have been working to restore whitebark pine since 1991 when I planted my first whitebark seedling. Every visit to a whitebark ecosystem reinvigorates my passion for the species and provides many happy memories. My most memorable "whitebark moment" is surprisingly not in a high elevation stand of large, stalwart trees though....it was seeing the first conelet on a graft in a rust resistance breeding seed orchard. To me, that conelet represented the culmination of over fifteen years of hard work and dedication by dozens of people...but more importantly, hope for whitebark pine's future.